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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/687,559.  
Applicant : Yamamoto et al.  
Filed : October 15, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 2834  
Examiner : Tran Nguyen

Confirmation No. 7147

Docket No. : 2933AS-11  
Customer No. : 22442

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

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SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.  
BY: Constance Russell

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Sir,

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action having a mailing date of 7 December 2004. This response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period. Applicants therefore believe this response is timely filed and no fees are due. In the event any fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

As set forth more fully below, reexamination and reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.